

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 166523  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK  
APPROVED BY P - PHILIP HABIB  
S/S-0 - AWOTTO

-----090276 161936Z /41

R 161912Z JUL 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 166523

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, US

SUBJECT: SCRANTON-PLO MEETING IN LONDON

REF: DAMASCUS 4389 (NOTAL)

1. GOVERNOR WILLIAM SCRANTON CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
ATHERTON JULY 14 TO PROVIDE ACCOUNT OF MEETING HE HAD RE-  
CENTLY HAD DURING VISIT TO LONDON FOR OTHER PURPOSES WITH  
PLO OFFICIAL BASIL AQIL AT LATTER'S INITIATIVE. AQIL HAS  
BEEN NAMED TO HEAD THE PLO OBSERVER MISSION IN NEW YORK.

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 166523

2. SCRANTON SAID AQIL FOCUSED ON FOLLOWING THREE POINTS:

(A) AQIL SAID THAT PLO WAS PLEASED WITH PRESIDENT'S REFER-  
ENCE TO NEED FOR PALESTINIAN "HOMELAND" BUT HOPED USG COULD  
BE MORE SPECIFIC. IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO SPELL OUT ALL  
DETAILS BUT PLO WOULD LIKE WEST BANK TO BE MENTIONED IN  
CONNECTION WITH HOMELAND. SCRANTON SAID THAT HE RESPONDED  
HE WAS NOT CERTAIN THIS WOULD HELP THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

(B) AQIL SAID HE HAD MADE PERSONAL SUGGESTION THAT ARAFAT  
ATTEND UNGA THIS FALL AND ARAFAT WAS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO

THE IDEA. AQIL SAID ARAFAT WOULD TAKE A MODERATE LINE AND HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD HAVE A FAVORABLE IMPACT IN THE U.S. SCRANTON SAID HE EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THIS IDEA, POINTING OUT THERE WAS A DIFFERENT PERCEPTION IN THE U.S. OF WHAT CONSTITUTED MODERATION. IN HIS VIEW, AN ARAFAT APPEARANCE WOULD PROVIDE RALLYING POINT FOR PRO-ISRAELI AND ANTI-ARAB SENTIMENT AND WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO EITHER THE PLO OR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

(C) AQIL SAID PLO WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT A VARIETY OF FORMS OF REPRESENTATION AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BUT INSISTED IT HAD TO BE INVITED IN ITS OWN NAME. IN RESPONSE TO ATHERTON'S QUERY, SCRANTON SAID AQIL HAD NOT REPEAT NOT MENTIONED PARTICIPATION IN A JORDANIAN DELEGATION AS ONE OF THE FORMS OF REPRESENTATION PLO WOULD ACCEPT.

3. SCRANTON'S ASSESSMENT OF AQIL IS THAT HE IS INTELLIGENT AND CLEARLY ACCEPTS THAT "THERE MUST BE AN ISRAEL". SCRANTON IS INCLINED TO ACCEPT AQIL'S CLAIM THAT HE IS CLOSE TO ARAFAT. ATHERTON ASKED SCRANTON IF AQIL HAD INDICATED HOW HE RECONCILED PALESTINE NATIONAL CHARTER WITH ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE. SCRANTON SAID  
SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 166523

THIS SUBJECT HAD NOT COME UP BUT HE WOULD MENTION IT THE NEXT TIME HE SEES AQIL. SCRANTON ALSO SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO CONVEY ANY MESSAGES USG MIGHT WISH TO PASS TO AQIL. MEANWHILE, HE WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT HE WOULD LISTEN TO ANYTHING AQIL HAS TO SAY TO HIM AND WOULD REPORT IT BUT THAT HE WAS NOT ACTING ON USG BEHALF AND NOT EXPRESSING USG VIEWS. ATHERTON CONFIRMED TO SCRANTON THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO REPEAT NO CHANGE IN OUR POLICY ON CONTACTS WITH PLO.

4. FOR DAMASCUS: IN RESPONSE TO DAOUDI'S QUERY (REFTEL), YOU YOU MAY TELL HIM THAT WE UNDERSTAND GOVERNOR SCRANTON DID MEET WITH AQIL AT LATTER'S INITIATIVE DURING VISIT TO LONDON FOR OTHER PURPOSES. IN INFORMING US OF HIS MEETING WITH AQIL, SCRANTON SAID HE MADE CLEAR TO LATTER THAT HE AGREED TO MEETING SOLELY AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN, WAS NOT INSTIGATED OR ENCOURAGED TO DO SO BY USG, WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF USG AND WAS EXPRESSING PERSONAL VIEWS.

5. IF OTHER ADDRESSEES RECEIVE QUERIES FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS ABOUT SCRANTON-AQIL MEETING, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO REPLY ALONG LINES OF PARAGRAPH 4. ANY PRESS QUERIES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO DEPARTMENT. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 166523  
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:TMARTIN:JP

APPROVED BY S/S-O:TMARTIN

-----091857 170708Z /13

O 170645Z JUL 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 166523

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL REPEAT STATE 166523 ACTION AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS  
JIDDA TEL AVIV LONDON DTD 16 JUL.

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 166523

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, US, UK, SY, PLO, (SCRANTON, WILLIAM), (AQIL, EASIL)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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